

Message Text

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TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

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SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN SPAIN

REFS: A. STATE 258260; B. STATE 259501

1. THE POLITICAL TRANSITION IN SPAIN HAVING BEGUN, WE BELIEVE IT IS TIME TO INITIATE CONSULTATIONS WITH THE ALLIES ON DEVELOPMENTS AND THEIR SIGNIFICANCE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SYG LUNS SHARES THIS VIEW, AND HAS CALLED A PRIVATE MEETING OF PERMREPS (MINUS THE PORTUGUESE REP) ON SPAIN FOR NOVEMBER 7, TO INCLUDE YOUR BRIEFING ON THE US-SPANISH FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT. YOU SHOULD APPROACH LUNS ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES IN ADVANCE OF THIS MEETING, PERHAPS SUGGESTING THAT HE MIGHT INCORPORATE YOUR POINTS IN HIS GENERAL REMARKS TO PERMREPS IN EXPLAINING WHY HE HAS TAKEN INITIATIVE TO CONVENE A MEETING.

-- IN THE PAST, THE NATO ALLIES HAVE HAD A SHARP DIFFERENCE OF VIEW ON WHEN THEY SHOULD TAKE ACTIVE STEPS TO BRING
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SPAIN INTO THE MAINSTREAM OF WESTERN POLITICAL, ECONOMIC

AND SECURITY AFFAIRS. THE US HAS TAKEN THE POSITION THAT

EVEN BEFORE FRANCO'S DEATH, THE ALLIES SHOULD BEGIN WORKING WITH MODERATE ELEMENTS IN SPANISH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LIFE SO AS TO ENHANCE THE POSSIBILITY OF ORDERLY TRANSITION FROM THE FRANCO REGIME TO A PLURALISTIC DEMOCRATIC FORM OF GOVERNMENT. SOME ALLIES HAVE CONTENDED THAT POLITICAL FACTORS MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO JOIN IN SUCH AN EFFORT. SPECIFICALLY WITH RESPECT TO NATO, THIS HAS MEANT THAT MOST ALLIES WERE NOT WILLING TO SEE CLOSER ASSOCIATION BETWEEN NATO AND SPAIN, MUCH LESS SPANISH MEMBERSHIP, UNTIL AFTER FRANCO'S DEATH.

-- WHILE THE EXACT STATE OF FRANCO'S PHYSICAL CONDITION REMAINS IN DOUBT, IT IS QUITE APPARENT THAT HE WILL NOT TAKE THE HELM AGAIN. THE TRANSITION PERIOD FROM THE FRANCO REGIME TO SOME SUCCESSOR FORM OF GOVERNMENT HAS BEGUN.

-- IT IS IMPORTANT THAT EMPHASIS SHOULD NOW BE PLACED ON THE OPPORTUNITIES WHICH ARE AVAILABLE TO THE WEST FOR ENCOURAGING MODERATION AND DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN SPANISH POLITICAL LIFE. MEASURES OF A POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SECURITY NATURE WILL BE REQUIRED.

-- FROM THE PERSPECTIVE BOTH OF POSSIBLE DANGERS AND OPPORTUNITIES, IT IS NECESSARY THAT THE ALLIES IN NATO UNDERTAKE CONSULTATIONS, INCLUDING EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION AND VIEWS.

2. YOU SHOULD TELL SYG LUNS THAT YOU WILL BE PREPARED TO BRIEF THE ALLIES ON OUR SPANISH POLICY AND THE STATUS OF OUR BASE NEGOTIATIONS; THAT WE FEEL IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE ALLIES KNOW THE DIRECTION IN WHICH OUR THINKING ON TRANSITION AND OUR DISCUSSIONS ON THE AGREEMENT HAVE BEEN PROCEEDING AND THAT IT IS OUR INTENTION TO PURSUE THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT. YOU SHOULD ADD THAT IT REMAINS AN OBJECTIVE OF US POLICY THAT SPAIN JOIN NATO. WE WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE THAT OBJECTIVE TOGETHER WITH THE GOAL OF NURTURING THE EVOLUTION OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS WITHIN SPAIN.

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3. AT THE PERMREPS DISCUSSION, YOU MAY DRAW ON THE FOREGOING TO SUPPLEMENT LUNS' COMMENTS, AND YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO DRAW AS APPROPRIATE ON REFERENCED TELEGRAMS ON OVERALL US POLICY TOWARD SPAIN AND ON THE BASES AGREEMENT.

4. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR YOU TO DISCUSS US VIEWS ON PROCESS AND SUBSTANCE OF CONSULTATIONS ON

SPAIN WITH YOUR BELGIAN, UK, FRG, FRENCH, CANADIAN AND
ITALIAN COLLEAGUES IN ADVANCE OF PERMREPS MEETING,
INDICATING WE WOULD WELCOME THEIR VIEWS.

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